



SIUSLAW NATIONAL FOREST PROJECT UPDATE

Printed quarterly by the Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor's Office
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SPRING 2003

Karnowsky Creek Rehabilitation Project

The Karnowsky Creek Rehabilitation Project is intended to return the stream to its original meandering location, which will improve stream function and encourage salmon migration. The stream had been diked and relocated in the 1800s by homesteaders intending to use cleared land for agricultural purposes.

Implementation on this project began during the summer of 2002, and will continue through this year with phase II. Using both a walking backhoe and an excavator, the channel was constructed in late Summer and Fall of 2002 and old drainage ditches will be plugged to divert water into the new channel in 2003. Grants will be secured to bring in whole trees by helicopter that will be placed in the floodplain and new channel in Fall, 2003.

Partnerships make it work. Through agreements that are first of their kind, the Karnowsky Creek Stream Restoration Project is restoring a valuable coastal ecosystem while forging working relationships that are just the beginning for the Siuslaw Watershed. Lines that distinguish agencies, special interest groups, schools, nonprofit organizations and local residents are being blurred to allow watershed restoration, responsible stewardship of public lands and education of a new generation.

Alcohol Ban In Off-Highway Vehicle Riding Areas

Possession of alcoholic beverages will be banned beginning May 1, 2003 in designated off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding areas administered by the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (ODNRA) and Sand Lake Recreation Area (SLRA) of the Siuslaw National Forest. This alcohol ban is one step toward providing a safer recreation experience at the ODNRA and SLRA. The combination of alcohol consumption, large numbers of motorized off-highway vehicles, unregulated sand camping, and large crowds of visitors (especially on holiday weekends) has created a situation that is highly dangerous to visitors and Forest Service employees working in these areas. There have been numerous injury accidents, drivers under the influence of alcohol and minors in possession of alcohol at these riding areas over the last several years. There is also substantial resource damage at the sites. The Forest Order (alcohol ban) was signed in early March with an effective date of May 1, 2003. The ban will apply only in undeveloped off-highway vehicle riding areas. Alcoholic beverages will still be permitted in developed sites at the ODNRA and SLRA.

Address, phone, and fax numbers for the districts are as follows:

Hebo Ranger District - Ph. (503) 392-3161 Fax: (503) 392-4203
31525 Highway 22, Hebo, OR 97122 Web Page: www.oregoncoast.com/hebord

South Zone

Waldport Ranger District - Ph. (541) 563-3211 Fax (541) 563-3124
P.O. Box 400, Waldport, OR 97394

Mapleton Range District - Ph. (541) 902-8526 Fax (541) 902-6946
4480 Highway 101 N, Bldg G, Florence, OR 97439

Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area - Ph. (541) 271-3611 Fax (541) 271-6019
855 Highway 101, Reedsport, OR 97467

FISH & WILDLIFE

Moon Creek Restoration

Hebo Ranger District

T3S, R8W, S29

Install about 10 wood structures to improve stream function.

Scoping: Winter 2002, 2003

Decision: Summer 2003

Implementation: Summer 2003

Contact: Wayne Patterson, 503-392-3161

Miscellaneous Small Projects

Hebo Ranger District

District-wide

A five-year program of small projects including meadow maintenance and noxious weed control in urban interface areas.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Fall 2002

Implementation: Spring 2003

Contact: John Johansen, 503-392-3161

Karnowsky Creek Restoration

South Zone, Mapleton Ranger District

T18S, R11W, S22, 23

This is a partnership with Siuslaw SWCD, Siuslaw Watershed Council, OWEB, and National Forest Foundation. Final design, contract preparation, and implementation of an integrated valley bottom restoration project.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: July 1, 2002

Implementation: Summer 2002, 2003

Contact: Johan Hogervorst, 541-902-6956

Yachats Watershed Aquatic Restoration

South Zone, Waldport Ranger District

T14S, R10, 11, 12W; T15S, R10, 11, 12W

To enhance fish habitat, improve shading of streams, and to speed the development of large wood that could fall in streams, about 750 trees and root wads will be placed in about 15 miles of streams; about 75 acres would be planted with shade-tolerant conifer and hardwoods in riparian areas currently occupied by meadows, alder, and brush; about 100 acres of dense conifer near streams would be noncommercially thinned, about 40 acres of previously planted riparian areas would be maintained, and about 20 acres of existing natural conifer near streams would be released from competition with hardwoods.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Fall 2003

Implementation: Begin Summer 2004

Contact: Bruce Buckley, 541-563-3211

Lagoon Restoration

South Zone, Oregon Dunes NRA

T19S, R12W, S33

Develop invasive weed control plan for lagoon and nearby lakes and ponds.

Scoping: Ongoing

Decision: Not yet determined

Implementation: Not yet determined

Contact: Mike Northrop, 541-902-6960

FORESTRY

Precommercial Thinning

Hebo Ranger District

Maintain growth and vigor by precommercial thinning of 10 to 20 year-old plantations.

Scoping: Ongoing

Decision: Annually

Implementation: Ongoing

Contact: John Johansen, 503-392-3161

Windjammer Project

Hebo Ranger District

T. 7 and 8 south R 10W

Develop late-successional stand characteristics by commercially thinning approximately 1,000 acres in stands 35 to 70 years old within LSR and AMA lands and stabilize, decommission or close specific roads associated with commercial thin operations in the Drift Creek Key Watershed.

Scoping: September 2003

Decision: September 2004

Implementation: August 2005

Contact: Brent Erskine, 503-392-3161



FORESTRY

Yachats Watershed Terrestrial Restoration

South Zone, Waldport Ranger District

T14S, R10, 11, 12W; T15S, R10, 11, 12W

To speed the development of late-successional habitat in late-successional and riparian reserves, the project would commercially thin about 2,300 acres of plantations 25 to 54 years old. To accomplish this thinning, about 10 miles of existing unclassified (non-system) roads would be temporarily reopened and about 1.9 miles of new temporary road would be built on stable ridge tops. These roads would be waterbarred and re-closed or decommissioned after use. In commercially thinned plantations, the project would underplant about 770 acres with shade-tolerant conifer and hardwoods, inoculate about 7,000 trees to create future snags, and fall and leave about 15,400 trees to add to the coarse wood component. Adjacent to commercially thinned plantations, the project would top about 300 mature conifer trees in natural stands to create snags as mitigation for loss of large snags through past regeneration harvesting. In addition, about 1,425 acres of plantations not feasible or suitable for commercial thinning would be noncommercially thinned (cut trees will be left on site).

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Summer 2003

Implementation: Begin Summer 2004

Contact: Bruce Buckley, 541-563-3211

RECREATION

Sand Lake Forest Lab

Hebo Ranger District

T13S, R10W, S17

Develop an environmental education trail on an isolated 11-acre National Forest parcel. Intent is to provide a short fully-accessible trail for all ages of students.

Scoping: Ongoing

Decision: Undetermined

Implementation: Undetermined

Contact: Wayne Patterson, 503-392-3161

Sandlake Day-Use Parking Lot

Hebo Ranger District

Sandlake Recreation Area

Improve an existing lot for day use parking for about 30 vehicles adjacent to the West Winds Lot. Improvements include: adding rock to an existing hardened surface and paving, developing a "staging area" and a area for parking small trailers.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: March 2003

Implementation: September 2003

Contact: Brent Erskine, 503-392-3161

Whispering Spruce Trail Reconstruction

South Zone, Cape Perpetua Scenic Area

T15S, R12W, S3

Reconstruct trail for accessibility to the West Shelter.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Completed

Implementation: Fiscal year 2004

Contact: Margie Pace 541-271-6070

Devil's Churn Phase II

South Zone, Cape Perpetua Scenic Area

T15S, R12W, S3

Construction of concession and information station, and new restrooms. Includes accessible trail from upper to lower parking lots.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Completed

Implementation: Fall 2002/Winter 2003

Contact: Wayne Gale, 541-271-6080

Outfitter Guide Permit Re-issuance

South Zone, Oregon Dunes NRA

Various locations on NRA

Reissue six outfitter/guide permits for motorized tours of the Oregon Dunes NRA.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Spring 2003

Implementation: Spring 2003

Contact: Sharon Stewart, 541-271-6071

South Jetty/Horsfall Entrance Stations

South Zone, Oregon Dunes NRA

South Jetty and Horsfall roads.

Construct entrance stations. Includes construction of septic systems for a toilet in each building.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Completed

Implementation: 2004/2005

Contact: Tom Johnson, 541-271-6070



RECREATION

Sand Camping Site Designation

South Zone, Oregon Dunes NRA

Motorized areas of the NRA
Designate specific sites/areas within the motorized areas of the NRA for dispersed sand camping

Scoping: Ongoing

Decision: Winter 2002, 2003

Implementation: May 2003

Contact: Sharon Stewart, 541-272-6071

ROADS

Flood Damage Road Repairs

Forest-wide

Winter storms in February 1996 through winter 2000 damaged roads on the Siuslaw National Forest. Work includes culvert replacement, slope stabilization, debris removal, and geotechnically constructed fills.

Scoping: Ongoing

Decision: Ongoing

Implementation: Ongoing

Contact: Marci Truhn, 541-465-6696

Moon Creek Road Decommissioning

Hebo Ranger District

T3S, R8W, Sections 19-23, 27-33
T3S, R9W, Sections 12, 13, 22-24
Analyze Forest Roads and identify roads that need to be waterbarred and closed due to maintenance concerns or unacceptable levels of risks to fish habitat.

Scoping: Summer 2003

Decision: January 2004

Implementation: Summer 2004

Contact: Wayne Patterson, 503-392-3161

ROADS

Yachats Watershed Road-work Project

South Zone, Waldport Ranger District

T14S, R10, 11, 12W; T15S, R10, 11, 12W
To improve watershed function and reduce road maintenance costs, the project would decommission about 17.2 miles of mid-slope and valley-bottom roads. This would be accomplished by building waterbars, removing fill and culverts from stream crossings, and closing road entrances. The project would also close about 16.9 miles of road in the watershed. Road closure activities include building waterbars across roadbeds and barricading road entrances—these are generally ridge-top roads that do not cross streams and may be used in the future. Currently, many of the roads proposed for decommissioning or closure are inaccessible to vehicles because of down trees, dense brush, or the roads have been blocked with a dirt berm or gate.

In addition, the project would modify the transportation system by replacing (decommissioning) 2.4 miles of road 5491—located between road 58 and road 5492—with about 0.5 miles of new road that crosses just one stream. This new road would maintain access for both Bonneville Power Administration and Forest Service. By decommissioning this section of 5491, which crosses several streams, road maintenance costs and sedimentation of aquatic habitats would be reduced.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Spring 2003

Implementation: Begin Summer 2004

Contact: Bruce Buckley, 541-563-3211

LANDS

Alsea Administrative Site Sale

South Zone, Waldport Ranger District

T14S R8W, Sec. 2

Involves sale of land and buildings on the Alsea Administrative Site through competitive bid.

Authority for the sale of this 26.1 acre site is contained in the Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-526). Sale of the site will be categorically excluded due to no findings of extraordinary circumstances.

Scoping: On-going

Decision: spring 2003

Implementation: summer-fall 2003

Contact: Mike Schwartz, 541-750-7175

Lamm Small Tracts Act

South Zone, Mapleton Ranger District

T17S; R10W; Sec 23

Involves well house on USFS land.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Spring 2003

Implementation: Summer 2003

Contact: Mike Schwartz, 541-750-7175

MULTI-PROJECTS

Gauldy Project Thin

Hebo Ranger District

T4,5S, R9,10W

Develop late-successional stand characteristics by commercially thinning 1,000 acres in stands 35 to 70 years of age within LSR and AMA lands, add stream structure, and decommission, stabilize, or close specific roads.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Fall 2003

Implementation: Summer 2004

Contact: Brent Erskine, 503-392-3161

Five Rivers Landscape Management Project EIS

South Zone, Waldport Ranger District

T15S, R10-11W

Thin and harvest about 3230 acres of 25-35 year-old managed stands, decommission about 49 miles of road, stabilize and close 77 miles of road, build and maintain a road to access private property, create and maintain 40 acres of meadows, add structures to 18 miles of stream, precommercially thin about 2366 acres, plant trees, create snags and down wood, and treat noxious weeds.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: 04/10/02

(Only projects not connected with commercial thinning)

Implementation: Begin 2002

Contact: Paul Thomas or Bruce Buckley, 541-563-3211

Lower Siuslaw Landscape Management Project

South Zone, Mapleton Ranger District

T17S, R9-11W, T18S, R9-11W, T19S, R9-11W

Lower Siuslaw Watershed Plantation Thinning - 3700 acres of commercial thinning and 1350 acres of precommercial thinning. Thinning includes opening and re-closing 1 mile of classified roads and 18 miles of unclassified roads, and construction of .8 mile of new temporary road.

Road Management - Close 63 miles of road and decommission 14 miles. Road 2127 would be maintained for high clearance vehicles as an alternate route when county road 5110 (Thompson Creek Road) fails at a future date. Where road closures affect access to private land, private access will be maintained.

Stream Enhancement - Place about 625 trees and root wads along 21.5 miles of streams to add complexity to streams and increase spawning habitat. Plant about 60 acres of streamside meadows and alder stands with conifers and hardwoods

Scoping: Completed

Decision: September 25, 2002

Implementation: Begin 2002

Contact: Bruce Buckley, 541-563-3211

SPECIAL USE PERMITS

Reeny's Reserve

Hebo Ranger District

T5S, R9W, S25

Construct about 1,000 feet of temporary road through a 15-year-old tree plantation on National Forest land to provide access to Boise Building Solutions land. Also included are use of tailhold trees on National Forest land and use of Forest Road 2282 for timber haul.

Scoping: Summer 2003

Decision: Winter 2004

Implementation: Summer 2004

Contact: Brent Erskine, 503-392-3161

Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area Sand Dune Aquifer Investigation Project

South Zone, Oregon Dunes NRA

T24S, R13W, Sections 9, 10, 15, and 16

Project proposes to conduct seismic surveys in five locations to map the geophysical profile to identify any potential barriers for water production. Test wells will be installed to assess flow.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Spring 2002

Implementation: Summer 2002

Contact: Shannon Souza, 541-266-0877

Miscellaneous Special Use Permits

Forest-wide

Water systems, road, transmission lines, road easements, minerals, commercial haul, tailholds, concessions and recreation events

Scoping: Ongoing

Decision: Ongoing

Implementation: Linda Montanez, 541-563-3211, or Nancy Craft, 503-392-3161



WATERSHED ANALYSIS

Twenty-two watershed analyses have been completed (about 95% of the Forest) including Nestucca Complex, North Fork of Siuslaw, Cummins/Tenmile (coastal stream watersheds between Cape Perpetua and Heceta Head), Yaquina/Big Elk, Mercer/Berry, Oregon Dunes NRA, Indian/Deadwood, Drift Creek-Siletz, Lobster/Five Rivers, Drift Creek (Alsea), Smith River, Yachats, Little Nestucca, Lower Siuslaw, Lower Umpqua, Sand Lake, Salmon Neskowin, Coastal Lakes, Beaver Creek, Lake Creek, and Lower Alsea. The analyses provide a better understanding of the aquatic and terrestrial environments within the watershed and reveal some management implications for meeting objectives of the Northwest Forest Plan.

The following watershed analysis is being completed or conducted.

Lower Siletz Watershed Analysis

Hebo Ranger District

Modify existing analysis done by the Mid-Coast Watershed Council to highlight road, stream, riparian, and vegetative conditions on National Forest lands.

Status: Start 01/2003

Contact: Wayne Patterson, 503-392-3161

FOREST-WIDE

Misc. Payments to Counties Projects

Forest-wide - Coos, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln and Tillamook Counties

The Siuslaw Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) met on August 2nd and recommended 31 projects to be funded out of Title II funds in fiscal year 2003 (October 1, 2002-September 30 2003).

The Siuslaw RAC, formed as a result of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393), was tasked to select projects Under Title II of the Act for recommendation to Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor, Gloria Brown for final approval. Proposed projects include: noxious weed and invasive plant control, road improvements and maintenance, meadow maintenance, trash cleanup, hazardous fuel reduction, young stand thinning, and road signing.

Details about each project, along with meeting minutes and agendas are available on the Internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/siuslaw>.

For more information, contact Bill Helphinstine, Designated Federal Official, 541-902-8526, Linda Stanley, 541-750-7210 or Anna Morrison, 541-682-4203.

REGIONAL PROJECT

Invasive Plant Project

Pacific Northwest Region (involving 19 National Forests and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area)

The Regional Forester is preparing an EIS to amend Forest Plan direction that will enhance our ability to protect native ecosystems from invasive and non-invasive plants. The analysis will build on the Region's existing program by improving our ability to: prevent the introduction of invasive plant species; improve detection and rapid response to new infestations; control existing populations; and provide for restoration of native species and habitats that have been invaded.

Scoping is ongoing with a Notice of Intent printed in the *Federal Register* on August 28, 2002 (p. 55194). Public meetings are planned for Wenatchee (Nov.13), Baker City (Nov. 16) and Roseburg (Nov. 20). The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with EPA and available for 45-day public review in July 2003. A Final EIS is scheduled to be completed in December 2003.

Contact: Eugene Skrine, Team Leader, 503-326-4310

Website: www.fs.fed.us/r6/



MULTI-AGENCY PROJECTS

Gypsy Moth Eradication Program for Lincoln County

South Zone, Waldport Ranger District

T14S, R10W, sections 34, 35, and 36; T14S, R9W, section 31; T15S, R10W, sections 1, 2, and 3; and T15S, R9W, section 6

An isolated, breeding gypsy moth population has been discovered in the Fisher (Five Rivers) area of Lincoln County by the Oregon Department of Agriculture last year based on trapping results. The gypsy moth was unintentionally brought into the area over two years ago from the east coast. The eradication area (or infestation site) is estimated at 706 acres (198 acres of National Forest lands and 508 acres of private lands). These acres will be treated with three aerial (by helicopter) applications of the *Bacillus thuringiensus* var. *kurstaki* (B.t.k.) bacterium (specific to moths and butterflies) in late April to mid May 2003 to eradicate this population before it spreads further. Intensive trapping will follow in the summer of 2003 to determine effectiveness of treatments.

Additional treatments may be needed in 2004 if the gypsy moth has spread into a larger area than expected, or in 2004 and beyond if treatments cannot be successfully implemented in 2003 due to weather or other factors. Thus, a total of about 3,820 acres are included in the eradication analysis area in the event that the population spreads beyond the current eradication area.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture and USDA Forest Service are joint lead agencies on the proposed project.

Scoping: Began December 2002 and is now completed

Decision: April 2003

Implementation: Begin April 2003

Contact: Bruce Buckley, 541-563-3211



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